

ARTICLE APPEARED

NEW YORK TIMES

ON PAGE **A-20**

20 JANUARY 1982

President's News Conference on Foreign and Domestic Matters

Departure of Allen

Q. Mr. President, why was it necessary to dismiss Richard Allen and restructure the foreign policy operation at the White House, when the Justice Department cleared Mr. Allen, and two press conferences ago you told us that the foreign policy apparatus here was operating just fine?

A. The changes that have been made with regard to the operation method were already under consideration. We did not dismiss Richard Allen, and I think he himself knew that it would be difficult for him after all that had happened, but he's still a part of the Administration.

He continues right now helping us. We're restoring P.F.I.A.B. — I use the Washington custom of putting the initials together in a name because it's difficult for me to always remember that that means the Presidential Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, which I think was a very valuable thing that was discontinued a few years ago. We're restoring that.

We have appointed a board and have a chairman and he is serving as a consultant, at this point, which does not mean that that's all that he's going to do. But he is a part of the Administration and I know that he was cleared, and regret the whole thing that took place.

Contacts With Press

Q. Mr. President, a few days ago Mr. Clark, your new National Security Adviser, issued a series of guidelines for contact with the press by officials of your Administration where classified information is to be discussed.

Two questions, sir. First of all, will it be your policy to advocate the use of all legal means, including lie detectors, to determine who is leaking classified information, if classified information is leaked? And second, do you think it will be possible for Administration officials to conduct a normal discourse of briefings with reporters, when nearly everything pertaining to foreign affairs is classified to some degree or other?

A. What we're doing is simply abiding by the existing law. It is against the law to — for those who are not authorized — to declassify, to release,

classified information. And I know that I've been told repeatedly that what is happening is nothing new, that it's been done under Administrations.

But I do think that it reached a new high here, of the leaks that were destructive to the foreign policy we were trying to conduct, that endangered delicate negotiations that were going on, and all we're doing is implementing the law.

It is against the law for anyone to release this information. We need to protect national security and our ability to conduct foreign policy. And, as to any specifics, Bill Clark is drawing up some specifics of that kind but they will all be within the law. And they'll have to be judged, what particular things are done, are judged on the individual case.

It will not interfere with our determination to have an open Administration — present information that properly belongs to the press — but we must stop that leak which, as I say, several times has really endangered things that we were trying to accomplish.

And we're not doing anything that, as I say, is not in the law today and we will certainly protect the constitutional rights of our citizens.

Q. Sir, if I may follow up, would you advocate the use of lie detectors, as a Pentagon official has in another similar case, and would you care to give us any of the specifics where the release of that information gave you difficulty with national policy?

A. Well, the trouble is if I tried to give you specifics on that, then I'm leaking and, no, because if — I think that anyone of you could see the situation in which you are dealing on a very sensitive matter with someone and suddenly those people you're dealing with read something in the paper that enrages them, and you're put in a position of trying to say it isn't so, please, believe us. And this has happened on a number of occasions.

Lie-Detector Tests

Q. Mr. President, I'd like to go back to a question that Bill Plant asked. He asked if you endorsed the use of lie detectors on members of the Administration to determine if they had leaked stories. Do you think the use of lie detectors is a good idea in that case?

A. I have to say that any of those things — to answer that, that has to be the specific case. I know in one agency in the Government right now, a major agency, there are some people voluntarily taking these because they themselves knew that they had association with and knowledge of a tremendous leak that occurred.

But all of those — I'm awaiting the plan that Bill Clark comes up with. But I think any of the things that are prescribed by law are there for a reason, and it will depend on the individual case.

Q. In addition, Mr. President, there's a recent White House directive that goes well beyond protecting national security secrets, which, I think, we can all understand is important.

That's a directive that Administration officials to — views with the press, with the major print interviews, with the White House before they accept them. And I'm wondering if you're at all concerned that that gives the perception of you having a closed Administration, or if you think this directive might have a chilling effect on reporters' efforts to gather the news.

A. No, I don't believe so. All we're doing is what every Administration before us has done — and we hadn't been doing. It's simply a case so that we all know what is going on. And, also, there can come — we've seen the situation when it would have been very, I think, educational for the people and advantageous for us, if two or three particular issues could have been brought before the public and, because of not checking with each other, we found three separate departments all going at once with their statements.

So it gives us the opportunity to make sure that all of us are familiar with where they're going, or if we have something that we think would be additional on what they're going to talk about from their department that we can see they get that.

AS RECEIVED

EXCERPTED